

120th

BLYTH & CUCKNEY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH
For the Year 1920.

Area in Acres, exclusive of Water 28,208.

Estimated Population for 1920 for Births & Deaths, 4764.

Population at Census of 1911, 4956.

WORKSOP :
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1921.



Blyth and Cuckney Rural District Council.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1920.

Area in Acres, exclusive of Water 28,208.

Estimated Population for 1920 for Births and Deaths 4,764.

Population at Census of 1911, 4,956.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Blyth and Cuckney Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of your District for 1920.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The population of the District, according to the Census of 1911, was 4,956.

The present population is estimated by the Ministry of Health to be 4,764.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are in agriculture and mining, and it appears evident from the Coal Pits sunk to the North West of the District, that this District will become more and more a Coal Mining District as time goes on.

Sinking operations were in progress prior to the War within the District, and these were suspended during the whole of the War, being recommenced in 1919.

At the present time there are in connection with the Colliery sunk within this District 24 temporary buildings, in addition to 16 houses, occupied, and the work of erecting houses is progressing very quickly.

The character of the District, particularly on the north side, is likely to change in the very near future, and the occupation of the District, which to-day is chiefly agriculture, will change to mining.

The land is geologically placed on the magnesian limestone formation to the West, where Styrrup, Oldcotes, Carlton, and Langwith are situate; and Blyth, Carburton, Welbeck and Cuckney to the East are chiefly on the new red sandstone.

The Western boundary is joined to the West Riding of Yorkshire and to Derbyshire.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered during the year was 108—55 males and 53 females. This number includes 8 illegitimate births. This gives a birth-rate of 22.6, which is an improvement on that of the previous year, when it was only 16.7. The birth-rate, however, is lower than that of England and Wales, which was 25.4.

MORTALITY.

The number of deaths registered, including those of former residents occurring in Institutions outside the District, was 65—31 males and 34 females. This gives a death-rate of 14.4, which is higher than that of the previous year, and also higher than that of England and Wales, which was only 12.4. Of the 65 deaths, 23 were of persons over 70 years of age, and 8 were over 60.

The death-rate from Phthisis was .2.

From other Tuberculous Diseases, .4.

The Zymotic death-rate was .4.

The following were the principal causes of death:—

Scarlet Fever, 1.	Parturition, 1.
Whooping Cough, 1.	Accident, 2.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 1.	Rheumatic Fever, 1.
Tuberculosis Meningitis, 2.	Organic Heart Disease, 5.
Cancer, Malignant Disease, 7.	Pneumonia (all forms), 3.
Bronchitis, 6.	Senile Decay, 11.
Other Respiratory Diseases, 2.	Cerebral Hemorrhage, 6.
Nephritis & Bright's Disease, 3	Dysentery, 1.

The remaining deaths call for no special remarks.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 8 deaths of Infants under one year—four of these being illegitimate. This number gives a death-rate of 74 per 1,000 births, and is less than that of England and Wales, which was 80.

The following were the causes and ages:—

Pneumonia,	aged 11 months.	Premature Birth,	1 day.
Bronchitis,	aged 5 weeks.	„	„ 17 hours.
„	aged 2 months.	„	„ 15 hours.
„	aged 5 months	Inanition,	6 hours.

None of the above deaths were due to preventable causes.

Owing to the shortage of Labour in the chief occupation of the District, namely, agriculture, and to the good wages paid in the Collieries in the surrounding Districts, there has been during the past year practically no unemployment, and as a result, so far as I am aware, Poor Law Relief has not been applied for. If relief has been given the amount has been negligible.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water.

Blyth.—With the exception of 17 houses within this Parish the whole of the property obtains the supply from a boring in the red sandstone, the supply being made by, and the undertaking belonging to, Major Willey.

The depth of the well in this instance is 200 ft., and the Waterworks consist of a Water Tower with a capacity of 25,000 galls.

The water supply of the remaining houses not supplied from the Waterworks is drawn from shallow wells.

The character of the water from the Waterworks is very good and the supply is constant.

Carlton.—The number of houses in this Parish is approximately 260, the water for which is derived throughout from shallow wells.

A proposal to obtain a supply for this Parish from Worksop Urban District was under consideration a few years ago. Owing to the then excessive price, it was decided to defer the carrying out of this work.

It is anticipated in the very near future, Colliery developments in the immediate vicinity of this Parish will take place, and it is partly on this account that the carrying out of the work has been deferred pending the introduction of the necessary rateable value into the District, which would enable the carrying out of this work without casting an undue burden on the rates. The rateable value of this District is so small that the cost of carrying out any Water Scheme to-day is practically prohibitive.

It is desirable that a supply should be provided from Worksop, or from a well in the sandstone, because, lying on the magnesian limestone, the water is very hard and liable to pollution through the fissures of the limestone.

Harworth.—At the present time out of a total of 212 houses, 160 houses derive their supply from shallow wells, 6 from deep wells, and 46 houses are supplied from a bore hole, which has been sunk during the past year by Messrs. The Harworth Main Colliery Co., Ltd., for supplying the whole of the proposed Colliery Village when erected. An analysis of the water from the bore hole has been made, and it has been ascertained that the total hardness is 21·1 degrees, having 7·30 degrees permanent and 13·80 degrees temporary hardness.

It is anticipated that, as a result of the Colliery sinking, a supply of water will have to be made for the houses now being supplied by shallow wells, in addition to the houses proposed to be erected, and negotiations are now proceeding with the Colliery Co., with a view to carrying this into effect. The supply from the waterworks is constant.

Hodsock.—The estimated number of houses in this Parish is 46. The water supply for the whole of this is obtained from shallow wells.

Styrrup-with-Oldcotes.—The source of the supply for the whole of the houses is from shallow wells, the number of houses being 146.

Wallingwells.—The source of the supply for the whole of the houses is from shallow wells, the number of houses being 6.

Carburton, Holbeck, Norton, Welbeck, and Woodhouse Hall.—The water supplied to the majority of the houses in these Parishes is obtained from a deep well belonging to His Grace the Duke of Portland, the quality of which is good, and the quantity sufficient.

There are in these Parishes 216 houses, 199 of which are supplied from a private deep well, and 17 from shallow wells.

The supply from the deep well is constant.

The depth of the well is about 85 feet, which is fed from a spring.

The volume pumped daily is 150,000 gallons.

Nether Langwith.—In this Parish the water is derived from two private deep wells belonging to His Grace the Duke of Portland and the Colliery Company respectively, 36 houses are supplied by the Colliery Co., and 66 houses from deep well belonging to His Grace the Duke of Portland.

The supply, which is good, is constant.

Cuckney.—The supply for this Parish is derived from springs, the water being raised by water-wheel to reservoir, capable of holding 50,000 gallons, from which it gravitates to the whole of the houses within this Parish.

The supply is constant.

I am not aware of any water in the District being contaminated by lead.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There is little, if any, pollution of the Rivers and Streams. No complaints have reached me during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The only Parishes within the District for which proper sewage disposal schemes are in operation are at Nether Langwith, Norton, Welbeck, and Harworth. This will be dealt with in detail later on.

In practically the whole of the Parishes the modern pipe sewer has been introduced to take the place of old brick culverts, which have been abolished. There still remain certain lengths on the North Side of the District.

Speaking generally, on the whole of the South Side of the District the system of sewerage and drainage is moderately good.

At Welbeck, Holbeck, and Woodhouse Hall, the sewage receives treatment before discharging into the stream.

At Langwith, of 102 houses, the sewage from 36 is treated at Sewage Works outside this District, where irrigation and filtration are in use.

At Norton, the whole of the sewage gravitates to a septic tank from which the liquid flows into an adjoining stream.

The sewage from Cuckney is treated in a similar manner.

At Carburton, the houses are spread over a very large area, and the houses are wide apart, with the result that the cesspool is in use. It might be pointed out, however, that in the Parishes where the sewage is not properly treated that water closets are practically non-existent, and that, therefore, the only liquid which is likely to gain access to the water courses is the liquid conveyed by the sewers from the roofs, backyards, sink-waste, etc., so that there is no excrementitious matter to be dealt with.

Dealing with the North side of the District at **Carlton**, this Parish is in need of improvement because the sewers are defective, and the water supply is derived from surface wells, the danger of pollution of the water from the fissures in the limestone rock being great.

Hodsock.—The houses in this Parish are scattered and wide apart, and the cesspool is in strong evidence, it being the only means available under the circumstances.

Blyth.—Certain sections of the sewer in this Parish, in my opinion, require relaying, and the existing brick sewers abolishing, and earthenware pipes substituting therefor. Although an adequate supply of water is available, there are only three water closets in the Parish. The whole of the sewage is passed¹ through tanks before it is discharged into the stream.

Oldcotes-with-Styrrup.—There are certain short lengths of main sewers which require abolishing and re-placing by earthenware pipes. This work has been held over pending development of the District consequent upon the sinking of Collieries in the immediate vicinity. At present, no water closets are in use, so that the only matters discharged into the water courses are the liquids conveyed by the drains from backyards, roofs, and sinks.

In the latter named Parish a modern sewer has been constructed during recent years, and in the event of the Council's housing scheme being carried into effect the short remaining length of defective sewer will be done away with and replaced with earthenware pipes.

This sewer extension has already received the approval of the Council and the carrying out of the work is being deferred, pending the decision of the Ministry regarding the housing scheme.

There is not the slightest doubt that in the near future sewage disposal schemes will become necessary in these Parishes, providing the development of the coal field in North Notts. takes place, as anticipated, and immediately the circumstances require such a course to be adopted, the Council will deal with the matter.

Harworth.—The character of this Parish is rapidly changing from agriculture to mining.

In the hamlet of Martin to the North there are about 16 houses, which are situate practically on the boundary of the West Riding of Yorkshire. Most of these houses are provided

with water closets, and the sewage is dealt with by agreement with the Doncaster Rural District Council at their Sewage Disposal Works at Bawtry.

The sewers in the village of Harworth have during recent years been reconstructed. The sewage, after passing through tanks, is discharged into stream adjacent, and owing to the absence of excrementitious matter, the drains conveying surface water only, no nuisance is created.

In connection with the houses and temporary dwellings which have been erected by the Colliery Co. during the past year, the former are provided with baths and water closets and sewers laid which convey the whole of the sewage to septic tank and filter.

This septic tank and filter has been designed and made capable of treating the sewage from approximately 90—100 houses, and has been constructed by the Colliery Co. as a temporary means of dealing with the sewage from the houses erected and to be erected pending the carrying out of the Council's sewage scheme for the whole of the proposed new village which, I understand, will have not less than 1,450 houses.

Regarding the temporary dwellings, pan closets are in vogue here, and the liquid waste is conveyed to septic tank and filter before gaining access to the Council's sewerage system.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The following list gives the particulars of the closet accommodation in the various Parishes:—

Parish.	Ashes and Privies.	Pan Closets.	Water Closets.
Norton	60	2	2
Cuckney	82	2	5
Holbeck	47	—	20
Woodhouse Hall	30	—	2
Langwith	66	36	—
Blyth	145	24	3
Welbeck	—	—	52
Carlton	198	20	3
Carburton	36	—	1
Harworth	134	32	30
Oldcotes and Styrrup ...	146	—	—
Wallingwells	5	—	—
Hodsock	40	—	—

For reasons already stated, it is anticipated that the sanitary conveniences in the North portion of the District will

be converted to the water carriage system in the immediate future, but this depends entirely upon the question of water supply, and providing an adequate supply of water is made, conversion will follow as a matter of course.

SCAVENGING.

The only three Parishes within the District where scavenging is undertaken by this Council are Blyth, Carlton; and Norton.

In these Parishes the privy middens are dealt with quarterly (or oftener if occasion requires), and pail closets weekly (or oftener as occasion requires), as, for instance, at schools, where the work is undertaken twice weekly.

Owing to the method of collection, movable ashbins are not suitable, and I am not aware of any being substituted for fixed receptacles.

In the remaining Parishes the duty of scavenging devolves upon the tenant, and as a result of a systematic inspection by the Inspector, it is possible to see that this work receives proper attention.

In connection with most of the houses, a fairly large area of land is available, so that the contents of the privy middens are used for manurial purposes, and generally without the creation of a nuisance.

Proposals have been submitted to two Parish Councils during the year for the work of scavenging being carried out by the District Council, but such proposals were unsympathetically met, the reason being, no doubt, that the bulk of the tenants require the whole of the refuse for use in connection with cultivation of their own garden plots.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS OR REGULATIONS.

The only premises within the District which may be controlled by Byelaws or Regulations are slaughter-houses.

No Byelaws or Regulations for regulating the conduct of this business are in operation, but it might be said, that through systematic inspection and the willingness on the part of the parties concerned, the standard required in the Model Byelaws and Regulations are unvariably attained without coercive measures being adopted.

There are no public abattoirs.

There are no offensive trades, houses let in lodgings, nor underground sleeping rooms within the District.

SCHOOLS.

The schools in the District are mostly small, the buildings being old.

The inspection of school children is carried out by the County Council.

The school premises have been inspected from time to time, either by myself or the Sanitary Inspector.

It was found necessary to close the schools at Hesley on account of measles during September; also at Carlton and Blyth for the same cause during April.

FOOD.

The food supply of the District is good. No unsound food has been exposed for sale to my knowledge.

MILK SUPPLY.

The milk supply of your District is chiefly taken from the local dairymen, but there are also several important dairies in your District which supply milk to Worksop, Creswell, and other Districts outside this area.

These dairies are inspected by your Inspector of Dairies and Cowsheds, and a Veterinary Inspector employed by you also examines the cows to see that they are free from tuberculosis of the udder, etc.

The premises are found to be clean and well kept. These buildings have been improved considerably of late years, and the more important are well cared for.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1920. No necessitous cases came to the knowledge of the Council during the year, and, therefore, no action has been taken in respect of this matter.

MEAT.

Your Inspector pays systematic visits to the slaughter-houses within the District, and examines every carcass exposed for sale.

The only diseased meat met with during the year under review was a beast's liver, which the owner voluntarily surrendered and destroyed.

The slaughter-houses to the number of 9, appear to be well conducted, and the occupiers appear anxious to carry out any reasonable requirement with a view to promoting cleanliness, and keeping the business free from nuisance.

No public abattoir has been established in the District, and the Inspector usually arranges the time of his visits so as to coincide with the time of slaughter.

No unsound meat has been seized nor condemned under Section 117 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and no carcasses or parts of carcasses have been condemned for tuberculosis.

The number of slaughter-houses in the District is as follows:—

	In 1914.	In January, 1920.	In December, 1920.
Registered ...	8	8	8
Licensed ...	—	—	1
	<hr/> 8 <hr/>	<hr/> 8 <hr/>	<hr/> 9 <hr/>

The sanitary condition of the premises where food is prepared, stored, or exposed for sale, is periodically inspected, and it is found that the bakehouses receive proper attention, but the most satisfactory results cannot be obtained until water in sufficient quantities is available for the substitution of water closets for existing privy middens at all places where food is prepared, stored, or exposed for sale, in order to avoid the contamination by flies conveying excremental filth to bread, milk, meat, or any kind of food.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Thirteen cases of Notifiable Disease were reported during the year, namely: Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 4; Scarlet Fever, 5; Diphtheria, 4. In addition to these, an epidemic of Measles occurred in the following parishes: Blyth, Carlton, and the hamlet of Hesley.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Prior to the period during which this report relates, the duties under this heading were undertaken by this Council, but since January, 1920, this work has been undertaken by the County Council.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Staff.—The only official in addition to myself responsible for Public Health Administration is your Inspector of Nuisances, whose duties are those prescribed by the Ministry of Health.

A Joint Hospital (the Worksop and Blyth and Cuckney Joint Hospital) is available for the treatment of Infectious Diseases, and is situated within the Council's District in the Parish of Carlton, being a distance of about 3 miles from the Urban District of Worksop.

The Hospital consists of two blocks, the Scarlet Fever Ward having accommodation for 12 beds, and the Diphtheria Ward, accommodation for 4 beds.

The accommodation available has, at all times, been found to be sufficient.

A Small-pox Hospital is available, having accommodation of 24 beds. This building is situate at Kilton Hill, in the Urban District of Worksop. A Sanatorium is also established here.

A Thresh's Disinfector is installed at the Isolation Hospital.

HOUSING.

Although the Council and their Officials have exerted every endeavour to carry into effect the Council's proposals for the provision of houses in the various Parishes where it had been decided the need existed, I regret that at the time of the preparation of this report there appears to be every indication that the scheme is dormant.

In my previous report, it will be remembered that as a result of a thorough investigation being made throughout the District, it was decided to prepare schemes for the erection of houses in the following Parishes, namely:—

Blyth	...	...	...	6
Carlton	...	...	...	24
Cuckney	...	...	...	14
Langwith	...	...	...	10
Oldcotes	...	...	...	6
Styrrup	...	...	...	6

This decision was arrived at and communicated to the Housing Commissioner, so long ago as September, 1919.

In the case of Blyth, upon Major Willey, of Blyth Hall, being communicated with regarding the purchase by the Council of a strip of land required for a housing site, he signified his willingness to relieve the Council of their obligations in this particular Parish by erecting six houses at his own expense. This matter was fully considered, whereupon it was decided to request him to give an undertaking to carry

out the work within a specified period, and to enter into a provisional contract for the purchase of the land required by the Council, the latter being required so that should the undertaking be not complied with, the Council would be in a position to proceed with the work without delay.

The result of this arrangement is, that at the moment, four of the houses are nearing completion, the work being unavoidably delayed owing to the difficulty experienced in obtaining certain building materials.

At Cuckney and Langwith a certain amount of delay was occasioned owing to the difficulty experienced in negotiating for the purchase of the land required.

The services of an Architect were engaged for the preparation of plans, specifications, etc., and tenders for the erection of 60 houses were accepted in August, 1920.

It will be seen, therefore, that practically twelve months have elapsed since the inception of the scheme to the date of the acceptance of tenders.

The nature of the work done during this period, I am aware, is such that a certain time must necessarily elapse before a definite settlement could be made, as, for instance, the delay which resulted from the opposition raised in connection with the selection of sites at Cuckney and Nether Langwith, but even taking all this into account, I venture to suggest that these matters could have been more expeditiously carried out. In August, 1920, the Housing Commissioner was informed that the tender of Messrs. F. Hopkinson and Co., Ltd., Worksop, had been accepted, and since that date, I understand, the Architect and Contractor have, at the request of the Housing Commissioner, been engaged in reducing the contract figure so as to bring the same in line with the cost of buildings being erected in other localities.

I understand that the contract price for the erection of houses within this District is in excess of the prices ruling in the Commissioner's Division, and that this is accounted for partly owing to the long distance between the Railway and the sites, the cost of cartage being consequently higher, and that also practically the whole of the men engaged upon the work of building will be required to be conveyed to and from work, the time taken in being conveyed being reckoned as working time.

It will be readily seen that such circumstances as exist in this District in relation to transport facilities are likely to result in a greater expenditure on account of additional haulage.

With a view to reducing the cost of the buildings, alternative schemes of sewage disposal have been prepared by your Surveyor and submitted to the responsible Authority, and although, as previously stated, the contract was accepted in August last, the position at present is that the matter is still being considered by the Ministry of Health. In Agricultural Districts, where the rate of wages is appreciably lower than in industrial centres, it appears to me that it is not a wise policy to erect houses at the present time, owing to the abnormal cost, inasmuch as the persons for whom they are primarily erected will not be in a position to afford to pay an economic rental, consequently, the only person who will be in a position to afford the rents will be those engaged in an industry other than Agriculture.

As this District is for all practical purposes entirely Agricultural in character, my point will become clear, namely, that the houses erected by this Authority will, in the majority of cases, be let, if and when erected, to persons engaged in employment outside the District.

Taking into consideration the fact that houses can be erected in industrial centres, or within a reasonable distance, at a less cost than in an Agricultural District, owing to the elimination of extraordinary transport charges, it appears anything but reasonable to me to propose the erection of houses in scattered Districts for the purpose of housing those engaged in industries in adjoining Parishes, and the most economical method of dealing with this question is, in my opinion, for houses to be erected where the cost of erection is more reasonable, and where the nature of the employment will enable the persons to afford to occupy same. By this means, the annual loss to the State would be considerably reduced, and at the same time it would have the effect of, in this District at any rate, and I do not suppose it differs greatly from other Rural areas, rendering the houses available for those engaged in the industry of the Parish or District.

I still adhere to the views expressed when the housing question was introduced, namely, that the shortage of houses within this District resulted through the occupation of premises by tenants whose employment was outside the area, and that on this account the houses which are required for the workers engaged in the District were not now available.

This state of affairs is the result of Colliery developments in the immediate adjoining Parishes, those previously engaged in Agriculture having gone over to a more remunerative employment, and owing to the shortage of accommodation in

the adjoining Districts, have retained occupation of the premises which were ordinarily provided for them whilst engaged in Agriculture.

BYELAWS RELATING TO HOUSES, HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS, AND TO TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC.

There has been no occasion to suggest the adoption of Byelaws relating to houses, houses let in lodgings, and to tents, vans, sheds, etc., as the whole of the existing habitations are constructed either of stone or brick, with the exception of two temporary wooden erections which are being used as temporary dwellings, and up to the present, the powers already possessed by the Council have been sufficient to secure the proper sanitary condition of all premises within the area.

Should circumstances arise which would render the adoption of Byelaws for promoting cleanliness in vans, tents, sheds, etc., desirable, the necessary steps would be taken in the matter.

Appendices.

HOUSING CONDITIONS STATISTICS,

Year ending 31st December, 1920.

1.—GENERAL.

- (1) Estimated population, 5,219.
- (2) General death-rate, 14·4; Birth-rate, 22·6.
- (3) Death-rate from tuberculosis, ·2.
- (4) Infantile mortality, 74 per 1,000 births.
- (5) Number of dwelling-houses of all classes, 1,137.
- (6) Number of working-class dwelling-houses, 1,009.
- (7) Number of new working-class houses erected, 45.

2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts), 120.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, 31.

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, 1.

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, 12.

Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers, 12.

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied, 3.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:—

(a) by owners, 3.

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners, nil.

TABLE II.
 BLYTH AND CUCKNEY RURAL DISTRICT.
 Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1920.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY							Total Cases re-moved to Hospi-tal
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years						Carburton	Harworth and Oldcotes	Norton Cuckney and Langwith	Blyth and Hodsock	Styrrup and Carlton	Holbeck and Woodhouse	Welbeck	
		Under 1	1 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years									65 and upwards
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group) .	4			3	1				1	2			1		2
Scarlet Fever . .	5		1	3	1				1			4			4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4					4			1	2		1			2
Other forms of Tuberculosis .															
Total . .	13		1	6	2	4			2	3	2	5	1		8

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council for their unfailing kindness and courtesy; to the Surveyor, Mr. Hewitt, also, I am deeply indebted for his invaluable help throughout the year. Although the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Flint, has not been with the Council for many months, he has carried out his duties to my entire satisfaction.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. T. WOOD,

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector's Report,

For the Year, 1920.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting this, my Report for the year, 1920. I was only appointed in the month of August, and I am indebted to Mr. A. E. Hewitt and my predecessor, Mr. Plewes, for particulars of work carried out during the first six months of the year.

A regular inspection of the District has been made to ascertain its sanitary condition, and the undermentioned nuisances have been found to exist, arising from the following causes:—

- Defective yard paving, 3.
- Drains made up and defective, 14.
- Dampness in rooms, 2.
- Accumulation of offensive material, 6.
- Privy midden and ashpits requiring emptying, 61.
- Insanitary privy middens and ashpits, 6.
- Insanitary pan closets, 1.
- Improperly trapped gullies, 8.
- Pig-keeping, 1.
- Insanitary cesspools, 2.
- Slaughter-houses, cow-sheds, and workshops requiring lime-washing, 12.
- House in dirty condition, 1.
- Pumps out of repair, 5.

Twenty-eight preliminary notices and three statutory notices have been served, in addition to forty verbal notices given at the time of inspection.

Practically the whole of these nuisances have been abated. With respect to those outstanding, undertakings have been given to have such works carried out as are necessary to put the matters in order, without delay.

DAIRIES, COW-SHEDS, AND MILK-SHOPS.

The Cow-sheds in the District are located as follows:—
Blyth, 1; Cuckney, 10; Carlton, 8; Carburton, 1; Norton, 2; Langwith, 4; Holbeck, 6; Harworth, 3; Hodsock, 1.

These premises have been inspected periodically. In many cases the lime-washing had been neglected, but the owners, after having their attention drawn to the matter, carried out the work without the serving of notices being necessary.

FACTORIES AND WORK-SHOPS.

There are no factories in the District, and the work-shops total 27, made up as follows:—Blacksmiths, 8; Joiners, 5; Bootmakers, 5; Cycle Dealers, 2; Tailors, 1; Dressmakers, 2; Basket-makers, 1; Bakehouses, 2; Saddlers, 1.

The inspection showed that the work-shops were kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

The number of slaughter-houses within the District is as follows:—Carlton, 3; Cuckney, 1; Oldcotes, 1; Blyth, 3; Langwith, 1. (8 registered and 1 licensed.)

I am able to report that these places are kept in a very clean condition. Frequent inspections have been made, and as far as was possible, the time chosen for the inspection was when the slaughtering was taking place. Every facility was given by the butchers for the examination of carcasses.

On one occasion a portion of the carcase of a beast was condemned as being unfit for human food.

Several of these buildings are, in my opinion, situated too near dwellings, but owing to the efforts of the occupiers, this disadvantage is practically overcome on account of every precaution being taken to keep them free from any nuisance.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Thirteen cases of infectious disease have occurred during the year, as under:—

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Tuberculosis.
Blyth	—	2	—
Carlton	—	—	1
Cuckney	—	1	2
Holbeck	—	1	—
Harworth	1	—	—
Oldcotes	—	—	1
Styrrup	4	—	—

Six of the above cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital for treatment. Two of the above cases of tuberculosis were removed to the Sanatorium for treatment.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

Owing to the slow progress of the Housing Schemes which the Council have in hand in the Parishes of Carlton, Cuckney, Langwith, Oldcotes, and Styrrup, it has not been found possible to go forward as rapidly as desired with the many improvements which are required with regard to existing housing conditions.

Under the above Act, 31 houses have been re-inspected, and in cases where houses are ear-marked for being closed, notices were served on the owners requiring them to carry out the necessary repairs, having regard to the fact, that when new houses have been built, these will be condemned and closed.

With regard to the remainder of the houses in which defects were found to exist, the notices served regarding them have, in the majority of cases, been complied with.

The nuisances and defects found to exist during the course of inspection made under the above Act are included under the heading "Nuisances" in this Report.

SCAVENCING.

In the Parishes of Blyth, Carlton, and Norton, the scavenging is carried out by the Council through contractors, and in the remaining Parishes privately, usually by the tenant, and in some cases by the landlord.

Repeated inspections have been made of the Parishes where the Council have not undertaken the work of removal regarding privy middens and ashes-pits, and it has been necessary in many instances to request the occupiers to empty and cleanse them.

Complaints were received in the latter part of the year regarding the Scavenging Contractor at Blyth and Carlton failing to empty certain pan closets, etc., which apparently resulted through no proper arrangement being made by him for the systematic emptying.

This Contractor has since terminated his contracts, and new ones have been entered into.

No complaints have been received since the new Contractors undertook the work.

Several inspections have been made of the various privy middens and ashes-pits, the emptying and cleansing of which they are responsible for, and they appear to be receiving proper attention.

The pan closets are emptied weekly, and the privy middens and ashes-pits quarterly, or oftener, if required by the occupier of the premises.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WALTER FLINT, C.R. San. Inst.,
Sanitary Inspector.